

WHEATLAND NEWS

August 2025



News from the Diocese of Hereford and the 17 parishes
around Ditton Priors, Stottesdon and Highley

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Wheatland Diary August & September

Sat	2	Aug	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Thur	7	Aug	Burwarton Show! – DP Refreshment Tent – see page 11
Sat	9	Aug	Middleton Scriven Church – Coffee morning – 10:00 – 12noon – see page 25
Sun	10	Aug	Flicks in the Sticks – VE / VJ day anniversary special – The Battle of Britain, 1pm, Chetton VH - page 15
Sun	10	Aug	Billingsley Church – Journey to Easter Island – 6:00 pm – see page 18
Tues	12	Aug	Cleobury North VH AGM – in the VH, 7:30 pm – see page 14
Thur	14	Aug	Aston Botterell - Southport Flower Show – see page 13
Sat	16	Aug	Ben Upton's 200-mile cycle ride in aid of Aston Botterell Church – sponsors needed! - see page 13
Sat	16	Aug	Summer Farmers' Market – Cleobury Mortimer – 09:30 – 12:30 – see page 25
Sun	17	Aug	Daddy's Hat – 4:30pm at Cleobury North, 5:30pm for music before service at Loughton – pages 14 & 16
Thur	21	Aug	Teas in St John's Churchyard, Ditton Priors – sunshine promised – 3:00pm – see page 11
Sun	24	Aug	Live Music – Shades of Grey – Pheasant at Neenton – 5:00 pm – see page 14
Fri	29	Aug	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Sun	31	Aug	Summer Lunch – Church House, Chetton – see page 15
Fri	5	Sept	Flicks in the Sticks – Bridget Jones, Mad About the Boy, Chetton VH 7:00pm – see page 15
Sat	6	Sept	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Wed	10	Sept	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Laura's Dairy Talk & Tasters
Sat	13	Sept	Ride and Stride! - see pages 11 and 20
Sat	13	Sept	Middleton Scriven Church – Coffee morning – 10:00 – 12noon – see page 25
Fri	19	Sept	Chetton VH Xmas Embroidery Stitch-along first meeting – see page 16
Fri	26	Sept	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14

Editorial

The school holidays have arrived and in this month’s magazine we have some great ideas for things to do with nature – Sue Crichton has given some ideas which are published on the back pages of the current edition.

The service of Commemoration for the air crews who lost their lives in crashes on the Clee Hills held at the Memorial on Brown Clee will now become an annual event. See report and photographs on pages 7 – 9.

What a joy it will be to replace the words “Priest in Charge” with Vicar in the Brown Clee Benefice! Congratulations to Revd Joe and to everyone who fought so hard for this to happen. We now wish Stottesdon Benefice a good outcome from their recruitment, after a long interregnum.

We briefly report the important news from General Synod regarding the Hereford Motion for better funding to improve rural ministry. See the Bishop’s Weekly Video on page 4. A copy of the Hereford Motion, which is likely to affect all our parishes, is tucked in on page 20.

Daddy’s Hat has been busy visiting St May Magdalene in Bridgnorth and will be in Cleobury North again soon – see report on page 16.

Attention has been brought to the fore about the loss of Post Office - see Ditton Prior News. The Government consultation runs from 14 July to 6 October – read the full document, and how to respond, through this link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/green-paper-future-of-post-office?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=cc7f4e2c-d18c-4cb2-b6b4-7d0b276f313c&utm_content=daily



Finally – keep safe and enjoy the holidays.

Ed

August cover photo – with thanks to Sally Russell. The group of tiny humans gathered almost at the highest point in Shropshire, to commemorate the airmen of Allied and Axis forces whose lives were lost there. It was a scorching hot day for the service – but our hill, some 1700 feet above sea level, and with nothing equalling that height between it and the Ural Mountains, can be the bleakest, coldest place in midwinter, windswept and lonely....

Please note – again we’re in the marvellous situation of having an over-abundance of contributions this month! Print run is 28 pages: the full Wheatland Diary, and the Local Contacts, are added to the online version.

Wheatland News Local Coordinators

Please continue to send reports to your contact for your parishes listed below.

The deadline for getting your contributions for the **September 2025** edition of WN to the **EDITOR** will be **noon on Wednesday 27th August 2025**. Please, please help us to help our printer and our distributors so that we get WN to you in good time each month.

Brown Clee, Ditton Priors, Wheathill & Loughton	Jutta Langham, 01746-712551 - rl.langham@btinternet.com
Aston Botterell	AnnePreece@icloud.com
Cleobury North & Burwarton	Jane Bufton – 07716-877421
Chetton	Pam Downing - pamdowning61@gmail.com
Highley	Canev Clayton -
Glazeley & Deuxhill	Marion Corfield - marion.corfield@talktalk.net Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Billingsley	Revd David Poyner - D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk
Farlow, Sidbury, Middleton Scriven, Cleeton St Mary, and Silvington	Chris Tibbits - Chris@stottystores.co.uk



Diocese of Hereford

July letter from the Dean of Hereford

Flush not busted!

It is too easy to have our perception of the Church of England prejudiced by media accounts of our general awfulness, our

dismal failures and our decline- It is also extremely hard - and sometimes demoralising work keeping on with a much loved but apparently unsustainable model of ministry. Are we- we might wonder- doing that against all the odds because it is right and God's will- or because we of a certain generation can't bear to let it go and no obvious replacement is evident? Whether you are part of a tiny church in the middle of a farm or a larger church, priory or cathedral these uncomfortable questions might occur to you from time to time.

I want to offer two rebuttals to the general sense of the weakness of the church. The first is simply that the gospel rather stands on weakness and apparent defeat! Some might say that the Church thrives on it because it stops trying to please the world and focuses on being faithful to the Lord. That is a very hard path- and for churches in places like North Korea, India, and Sub-Saharan Africa - a devastating one. But small and weak keeps on keeping on with its eyes on Jesus. Perhaps most of us are not small and weak enough to let go and rely totally on God. I am not brave enough to incite you all to cast aside wealth and community popularity although I'm pretty sure that Jesus was fairly clear about such things- not least because in today's compliance laden society it would incite breaking the law of the land in many ways and He didn't recommend that. But I am sure that we are less small and weak than we think. Remember Elijah thinking he was the only servant of God left in Israel and God telling him to get a grip because he actually had a sizeable number of faithful Israelites on standby?

The second rebuttal reinforces the point. I sit on the board of trustees of the Benefact Trust, which owns a financial services company that you might recognise as Ecclesiastical Insurance. Benefact gives a significant proportion of its annual profits to the Trust for the sole purpose of providing churches and church organisations with grants to assist with building projects and community transformation work. I am on the board to represent and articulate the broad needs of parishes and cathedrals and I love the days when we consider applications and see what is going on across the church. What is going on is phenomenal!

Ladies and gentlemen, the Church is not dead or even dying. Where there is missional vision and aspiration for community, there is life. Where there is nothing but steady prayer and faith, God can and will work for the good of those who love him and for the coming of His Kingdom.

Very Rev'd Sarah Brown
Dean of Hereford



Bishop Richard's video - The General Synod

Bishop Richard talks about the Hereford Motion (*see page 20*) debated at General Synod, seeking:

"Redistribution of financial resources to Diocesan Stipend Funds" ... "to manage the funds redistributed ... to support parish ministry sustaining the Church of England's commitment to be a Christian Presence in every community"

You can read the transcript, and watch the video, on the Diocese website at
<https://www.hereford.anglican.org/news/bishop-of-herefords-message/-bishop-richards-weekly-video-message-transcript-24102024.php>

All Synod papers can be found at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-july-2025>



Brown Clee Benefice

Priest-in-Charge - Revd Joe Simons

The Vicarage, Ditton Priors, Shropshire, WV16 6SQ
01746-599217 07872-464276



St John the Baptist, Ditton Priors, and Holy Trinity, Wheathill and Loughton

CHURCHWARDENS:

Carole Smith

Mark Smith: 01746-712394

St Michael & All Angels, Aston Botterell

CHURCHWARDENS:

Anne Preece: 01746-787237

Ben Upton: 07870-160039

St Giles', Chetton

CHURCHWARDEN

Sheila Millington: 01746-789443

SS Peter & Paul, Cleobury North

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mike Bradbury: 01746-787676

Jane Bufton: 07716-877421

All Saints', Neenton

CHURCHWARDEN:

Bobbie Jarvis: 01746-787093

August Reflection

As a child I used to suffer quite badly with a lack of confidence, it didn't help that my Dad was a Professor at a University, passionate about science and blessed with an intellect that only served to highlight my inadequacies. I would find myself worrying about my ability to perform at a level that would meet his standards, although I rather suspect this was a level of attainment fashioned in my own mind and not his.

But I would worry!

Worry is like a wood boring insect; it eats at you from the outside in and destroys your confidence and self-belief.

Jesus says in Matthew 6.27

'And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?'

Worry brings no solutions, it doesn't change the outcome, it just makes you unwell. It drives your emotions and thoughts, and all for what?

With worry we become driven by fear.

As Christians we believe that we are held by God and watched over by him and that our life is in his hands. He knows what we need. Worry takes us away from our belief to unbelief, we are beset by doubts and debilitated by questions and different 'what if...' scenarios.

We are called to trust the God who created us. There will be troubles, but God is bigger than all of these.

So back to me and my worrying as a child. My Dad got me a plaster which he stuck on my wrist, and it read "Confidence and Strength." When the worry came on, and it did, I would look at the plaster and it would calm my fears.

Have confidence in God and his son Jesus. Know that he is with you, and also have strength to trust that he will lead you, especially when times are tough.

Revd Joe Simons

Readings for August	
Sunday 3rd August Seventh after Trinity Green	Psalm 107. 1- 9, 43 (or 107. 1 – 9) 49. 1 – 12 (or 49. 1 – 9) Hosea 11. 1 – 11; Ecclesiastes 1. 2, 12 - 14; 2. 18 – 23; Colossians 3. 1 – 11; Luke 12. 13 – 21
Sunday 10th August Eighth after Trinity Green	Psalm 50. 1 – 8, 23 – end (or 50. 1 – 7) 33. 12 – end (or 33. 12 – 21) Isaiah 1.1, 10 – 20; Genesis 15. 1 – 6; Hebrews 11. 1 – 3, 8 – 16; Luke 12. 32 - 40
Sunday 17th August Ninth after Trinity Green	Psalm 80. 1 – 2, 9 – end (or 80.9 – end) 82 Isaiah 5. 1 – 7; Jeremiah 23. 23 – 29; Hebrews 11. 29 – 12.2; Luke 12. 49 – 56
Sunday 24th August Tenth after Trinity Green	Psalm 145. 1 – 7 Isaiah 43. 8 – 13 or Acts 5. 12 – 16; Acts 5. 12 – 16 15 or 1 Corinthians 4. 9 – 15; Luke 22. 24 – 30
Sunday 31st August Eleventh after Trinity Green	Psalm 81. 1, 10 – end (or 81. 1 – 11) 112 Jeremiah 2. 4 – 13; Ecclesiasticus 10. 12 – 18 or Proverbs 25.6 – 7; Hebrews 13. 1- 8, 15 – 16; Luke 14. 1, 7 – 14
Sunday 7th September Twelfth after Trinity Green	Psalm 139. 1 – 5, 12 – 18 (or 139. 1 – 7) 1 Jeremiah 18. 1 – 11; Deuteronomy 30. 15 – end; Philemon 1 – 21; Luke 14. 25 - 33
Harvest	Psalm 100 Deuteronomy 26. 1 – 11; Philippians 4. 4 – 9 or Revelation 14. 14 – 18; John 6. 25 - 35

From the Brown Clee Registers

Baptism

✝ Sunday 6th July - The Baptism of Angus Paul Lewis at St. Giles Church, Chetton

Funerals

✝ Friday 27th June – The Funeral Service of the late Paul Andrew Handley at Telford Crematorium and All Saints Church, Neenton

✝ Tuesday 8th July – The Funeral Service of the late Brian George Taylor at Shrewsbury Crematorium

Wedding

✝ Saturday 28th June – The marriage of Simon John Smith and Karen Miranda Horton at St. John the Baptist Church, Ditton Priors

Services in Brown Clee Churches during August

Sunday 3rd August

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

Sunday 10th August

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Chetton

Sunday 17th August

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Neenton
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Loughton

Sunday 24th August

	Bartholomew the Apostle – red / green	
9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Cleobury North

Sunday 31st August

10:00 am	Group Holy Communion	Chetton
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Sunday 7th September

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

Sunday 3rd August

9:30 am	Holy Communion	Ditton Priors
11:30 am	Holy Communion	Aston Botterell

Airmen on the Brown Clee – a Service of Remembrance,

to Commemorate those who lost their lives during WWII and later years.

Karen Simons writes:

A Service of Remembrance took place at the summit of Brown Clee Hill, to remember the crews of two aircraft, British and German, which crashed during operations in World War II. In addition, other airmen, including from a Canadian aircraft, which also came down nearby, were remembered. In total there were crews from 10 aircraft, 30 men lost.

Some 48 people attended the memorial service on a hot sunny day at the top of Brown Clee Hill. Our thanks go to all those who made it possible: the Millington Family, Tony and Babs Brown, Charles Hunter and everyone who drove up to the site, and provided delicious refreshments afterwards. Thank you also to Lord Boyne who allowed us vehicular access so that all could pay tribute to the fallen airmen.

The service was conducted by Revd Joe Simons, who spoke of the bravery and courage of these young airmen. It included the laying of wreaths and prayers of hope, peace and reconciliation for the future.

It was particularly poignant to have Phillippa Hodgkiss present as she had played such a huge part in erecting the memorial in 1981 and in the recognition of these men. In attendance was also Paul Massey whose mother Maud Howells, on hearing one of the crashes as a young girl, rode through the mist to provide comfort to the stricken crew.

It is proposed that this service would now become an annual event, since it had come to an end prior to covid in 2019.

Continued overleaf. →

Brown Clee Remembrance – continued

Our thanks to Ian Hodgkiss, the nephew of Philippa, who kindly provided the following account of his aunt's role in the Memorial, with permission to publish it in WN. More pictures of and about the service are overleaf.



Ian Hodgkiss writes:

Having had a long interest in wartime history, possibly through being bombed by the Luftwaffe as a toddler in Birmingham, in 1978, Philippa heard about the wartime crash of a single German bomber on Brown Clee Hill.

She made enquiries and met two very knowledgeable local eyewitnesses. Maud Howells had been a shepherdess on the hill, and remembered the German crashing, in fact, as a sprightly 15-year-old, she'd been sent up the trees it had crashed through to recover the remains of the crew. People had stronger stomachs back then, and she was a farming girl. As well as the German, she pointed out several other crash sites nearby. Maud had been first on the scene of a Wellington bomber crash, helping an injured survivor who, having taken hold of her hand, wouldn't let her go. There were more crashes still, another Wellington, a Mustang fighter and a Typhoon so secret that the unfortunate plot's parachute was used to hide its engine from prying eyes.

Philippa also met Tom Bytheway. His family lived high on the East side of the hill, and having been narrowly missed by two crashing Avro Ansons, he took the chance to move to a house on lower ground.

There was no record of one of the Anson crashes, but some parts of the aircraft were found under the turf. A manufacture's part number and inspection stamp on a tiny metal hinge allowed Philippa to identify the aircraft's serial number, and then its crew, from a card index held by the Air Force Historical Branch Office in London. There was no internet back then!

Having heard the stories from Maud, Tom, and many others, and discovered the names of the 23 men lost on Brown Clee, Philippa was sufficiently moved set about erecting a memorial. Another group of enthusiasts from Merseyside, The Warplane Wreck Investigation Group, had helped in her investigations on the hill, and one of their members was able to locate a slate slab from a billiard table at the abandoned RAF East Kirby. A Royal Air Force eagle was cast from aluminium wreckage from several of the crashes and was attached to the engraved slab. A stainless steel plate recorded the 23 names, and on Good Friday 1981, Philippa and the WWIG lads mounted the slab and plate on the saddle of Brown Clee, in a spot suggested and kindly consented to by the landowners, the Boyne Estate. There had been no fund raising or formal dedication, but the memorial was soon pointed out by the Birmingham Aircrew association, many of whose members flew alongside those lost on the hill. They established an annual memorial service on the hill, with flags, standards, and often a flypast from nearby RAF Shawbury.

The last service at the memorial was in 2019, when covid brought everything to an end.

Fortunately, Julian Middleton at the nearby Chetton Heritage Museum, has rekindled interest in Brown Clee's wartime history. Philippa had placed a two-foot square aerial photo of the hill, with crash sites marked and stories told, in the Youth Hostel on Brown Clee. When the hostel closed, the photo had made its way to a museum at Sleaford airfield. By now it was looking tatty, but Julian rescued it for his museum. With his mum, Sheila, being very involved with the local church, a fitting service was organised on a sweltering July day, with Philippa, and the late Maud Howell's son, in attendance.

Long may it continue.



Maybe knowing about the memorial, and its purpose, will tempt people to venture up the Brown Clee to discover its incredible atmosphere and take time and peace for their own remembrance. It is a challenging climb, especially for the less fit – but so rewarding!

Quite a few who attended this service were glad to ride up in the shoot wagon, or by car, on the road which replaced the old quarry railway. Others may have climbed from the road through the coolness of the trees.



About 48 people gathered around the memorial itself for the service and the wreath-laying – but some stayed in the shelter of the wood, to pay their own respects.



From top

The Memorial and wreaths

The service

Riding up in the shoot wagon

Philippa Hodgkiss at the Memorial

Revd Joe conducting the service, with Paul Massey laying a wreath

Majestic view from the top of the hill, into the distance

In the peace of the trees

Brown Clee Medical Practice – Patient Participation Group

Tina Ranson writes:

Another really interesting meeting of the Brown Clee Patient Participation Group (PPG) this month (1st July), where we were very pleased to learn that a new male Doctor is interested in joining the Practice and will be working a week in September as part of joint decision-making process.



We also heard from Lisa Davies, the Advanced Nurse Practitioner, who is a 'first contact' professional and can see and treat a range of illnesses and ailments.

Good news as well from Ade Robinson who has now worked with pupils at the Brown Clee School to plant seeds which will eventually go into gardens being created at the Surgery.

Yemmi Agbebi encouraged patients with an administrative request or a 'same day' appointment, to try out the E-consult route which can be found on the front page of the Practice website site. This can be used from 7.30 am daily in order to reduce the stress of trying to phone at 8.00 am.

Finally – thinking about the AGM in October – if any patient wishes to stand for election to the PPG Committee (as per the Constitution), then please be ready to self-nominate in advance – no need to be proposed or seconded. If you want to know more, please get in touch with Tina or any other Committee member – email browncleeppg@gmail.com.

Ditton Priors News

Marjorie Jones writes:

Use it – or Lose it!

As some of you will know, I was the Sub postmistress at Ditton Priors for 27 years - 10 years full time to begin with, then reducing and employing staff whilst I cared for grandchildren. A great deal changed during that time; withdrawal of Pensions and Child Allowances (at least 50% of our business) National Savings, Savings Stamps for TV Licences and BT payments, etc.

Sub-post offices are partly subsidised by the Government but the remaining remuneration comes from the amount of business traffic through the Office - every stamp sold is counted and every bill paid, etc. Despite the amount of responsibility involved many Sub postmasters receive less than £10 per hour for their work, and this is why in Ditton Priors the opening hours have been reduced. There are also overheads of rent and electricity to cover.

We really should value the service available to us. Did you know that our Post Office is the village Bank?

- ! You can pay in Cheques and Cash and withdraw Cash on behalf of many Banks.
- ! You can purchase Foreign Currency, either to order or Euros are in stock same day.
- ! You can still pay bills - I pay Electricity and Council Tax and now DVLA Car Tax is provided as well.

Our Post Office is a VALUABLE ASSET to the Community and I for one use it whenever possible. My message is clear: **USE IT OR LOSE IT**. And Thank You, Lily, for the excellent service you provide. *[See Editorial for Government page – Ed]*

Open the Book

Our small group went into School on Wednesday 9th July to tell our last story for this School year. We related the story of Pentecost. We have in Church a display of the children's work on the theme of the Holy Spirit - please pop in and see it. It is a pleasure and a privilege to spend time with the children and to see their obvious enjoyment. We look forward to returning in September.

Leavers' service

The children from Brown Clee School came into Church to celebrate the Year 6 children moving on to Secondary education in September. We heard lots of memories of their time at Brown Clee which they related with relish. 11 children are moving on to Secondary school and it certainly won't seem the same without them, but we wish them every success.

Residential Homes

Each month a small group of us goes into both of the Homes in the village to take a short Service with the residents. We sing several hymns and a good many like to join in singing along with us. We have a little time chatting to staff and residents and they always make us very welcome.

Sponsored Walk

A marvellous effort by everyone. We raised **£600** for Church funds. A very big 'Thank You' to walkers and sponsors alike.

Pimms & Puds Social

A very pleasant summery event and everyone enjoyed the delicious puds. The Black Eyed Susans' Ensemble was well received and enhanced the pleasurable evening. A big 'Thank You' to all who made puddings, erected shelters, served or helped in any way. The event raised over **£500** for Church funds.

First Saturday Coffee Mornings

Continue, from 10am - 12noon in Church on Saturdays 2nd August ; 6th September and 4th October. There is no charge for this popular community event and everyone is very welcome.

Burwarton Show Refreshment Tent

Thursday 7th August - Come and visit our stand near the Village Green. You'll find good value refreshments, a cheerful welcome and a chance to chat with Revd Joe.

Teas in the Churchyard

Thursday 21st August 3pm. Teas, Pimms, Stalls and games. We predict Sunshine this year.

Ride & Stride

The Church will be open all day on 13th September, and this year will include a Display of Flowers & Crafts: 10am - 6pm or until the Cake, Coffee and Teas run out.

Harvest Supper

Saturday 11th October in the Village Hall. Please book the date.

Cleaning rota for August

- Sunday 3rd August Mrs Jennifer Lowe & Mrs Debbie Jones
- Sunday 10th August Mr & Mrs Dennis Griffiths
- Sunday 17th August Mr & Mrs John Ballard
- Sunday 24th August Mr & Mrs Toney Brown
- Sunday 31st August Mrs Jutta Langham & Mr Steve Allen

St John the Baptist 100 Club results for July 2025

- £20 Sally Green
- £10 Avril Bridges
- £5 each to: Carolyn Snell, Rev'd Jenny Rowland, Helen Groves

Wheathill & Loughton News

Marjorie Jones writes:

As I write, we look forward to the **Benefice BBQ and Songs of Praise** on Sunday 27th July at Wheathill. Songs of Praise will begin at 6pm followed by the food. Let's hope the weather will be kind to us.

- ✙ Sunday 17th August- 6pm Evening Prayer at Loughton Chapel
- ✙ Sunday 21st September -6pm Evening Prayer at Loughton Chapel

Ditton Priors Local History Group

Robin Greenwell writes:

Let's Travel! ...Just like an episode of Dr Who!

... And didn't we do just that?! In our latest event on 15th July, Dr Patricia de Haan welcomed us into her Tardis to travel with her through time, along the highways and byways of Shropshire!

At the Village Hall a large and appreciative Ditton Priors History Group audience was treated to a fascinating and entertaining talk by Patricia. We learned so much about the early road maps of Shropshire in a fact-packed, pictorial journey through three centuries of map making!

Focused on our area, we saw in detail how road routes developed and were depicted on maps between Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock, Shrewsbury and the surrounding areas. We learned of map mistakes like the mystery of the 'Munslow metropolis!' (all roads, on several maps, seemingly leading to Munslow), how Craven Arms came into being initially just as a coaching inn, and finally how maps got smaller - becoming pocket sized, essential

'Travel Companions' and turning us into tourists!

A big thank you to everyone who came along, we hope you enjoyed it. (One of our new members commented that this event alone "was worth the annual membership fee!"). Also, many thanks to Jeannette Coles for arranging the event and of course to our guest speaker Patricia and her husband David.



Display Panel Project - Work on the new information panels continues, with the latest one; 'Lords of the Manor of Ditton Priors', about to go on display at the History Centre. The project is expected to be completed in early 2026. We are very grateful indeed to those that have sponsored the printing of the panels so far: Dennis Griffiths, Jean Gitsham, Lesley Moxon-Jones, Jenny Collingridge, Julian Millington and Ditton Priors Parish Council. Each panel costs in the region of £30 to print and if anyone would like to sponsor a panel please get in touch with the History Group by email at dittonpriorslhg@gmail.com



More History Group Events in 2025 - We have diary of events for the year, all held in Ditton Priors Village Hall. Some dates and speakers are yet to be confirmed so keep a look out for details on Facebook, posters around the village and of course here in WN.

- September (date tbc): 'The Royal Naval Armaments Depot, Part II
- Tuesday 21st October, 7pm: 'Local Air Crashes' - Philippa Hodgkiss
- November (date tbc), 'Roman Excavation at Beaconhill' (speaker tbc).

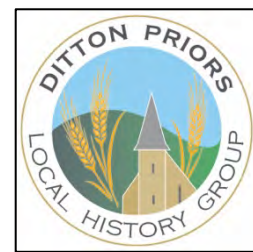
Burwarton & District Wives

For information on future meetings, please contact Debbie Jones (07966 707118), Gill Severn (01746 712231) or Margaret Bill (01746 712030). New members or visitors are always welcome.

Burwarton & District WI

We have an interesting programme for 2025 with speakers, social afternoons and outings and would welcome everyone to come and have an enjoyable time with us.

We have monthly meetings at **Cleobury North Village Hall** on **Tuesdays**, from October to March at 2.30pm and from April to September at 7.30pm. Visitors pay £3. For more information, please ring Helen Groves on 01746 712466 or e-mail me on groves.helen5@gmail.com



Aston Botterell News

Anne Preece writes:

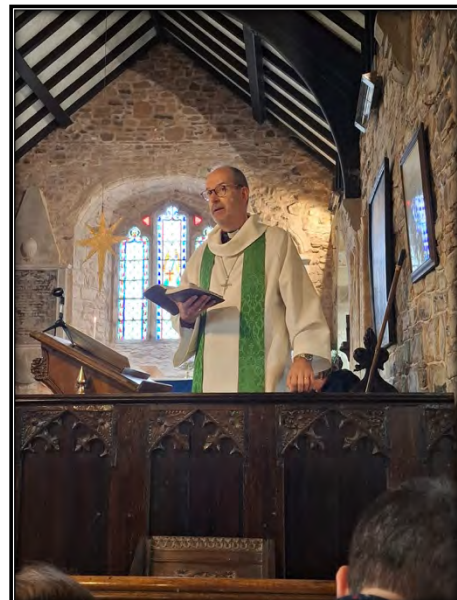


Bishop Richard comes to Aston Botterell

On Sunday 20th July we held a group service with Revd Joe and our guest, Bishop Richard from Hereford, taking the service between them. The church was beautifully decorated, and the churchyard was looking very smart. Following the service people stayed behind to chat and catch up, enjoying light refreshments including ice cream. Thank you all for your donations and help.

Good News

We will be welcoming Revd Joe as our full-time incumbent in August. This is great news to have him full time to pursue and continue building the integrated work of Brown Clee benefice.



Best wishes

George Berry has left school and has got a job on a farm. Good luck, George, with your future career.

Car Treasure Hunt

On Sunday 29th June we held our annual car treasure hunt. The participants were a select few, but had great fun solving the clues. Light refreshments were enjoyed by all in Middle House garden when the winners were announced. Congratulations to John and Ann Williamson and Peter and June Bache for solving the clues and winning the event.

Thank you all for taking part. Sheila and I had great fun setting out the course especially when a clue got moved 2 days before the date!!



Aston Botterell PCC Tote – July winners

- £20 - Reg & Christine Steel - No 120
- £10 - Iris Meredith - No 72
- £5 - Charlie Scott - No 52
- £5 - Pam & Ian Moreton - No 241

Events for your Diary

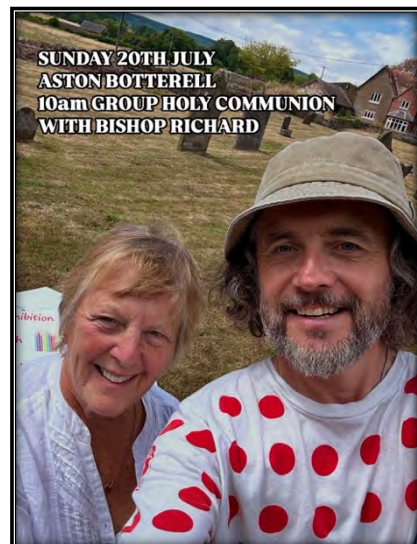
Harvest Festival - Sunday 5th Oct at 5 pm.

Quiz Night - Saturday 25th October – details in later edition

Sponsored Bike Ride - Ben Upton – pictured here with Anne - is doing a sponsored 200-mile bike ride on Saturday 16th August, to assist funds towards keeping Revd Joe full time. To sponsor Ben, he has a just giving page or donations can be given to Anne or Ben.

Southport Flower Show - Thursday 14th August - Anne is taking a trip to Southport flower show or just Southport. If you would like to go, please get in touch with Ann

And finally...Thank you all for your support and your donations to keep our community going.



Cleobury North & Burwarton News

Jane Bufton writes:



Daddy's Hat, on Sunday 17th August ...

... will make a short stop for music, tea and cake at SS Peter & Paul Church at approximately 4:30pm before moving on to Loughton for 5:30pm for more music, and melting into Evening Prayer. Do come and join in!


Cleobury North & District Village Hall

CNVH Management Committee writes:

CN&D VH – Annual General Meeting – to be held in Cleobury North Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th August 2025 followed by an Ordinary Meeting.

Julia's coffee mornings are back! These take place on the last Friday of each month in Cleobury North Village Hall from 10.30 'til 12 noon, for Hall funds. Come along for a cuppa and a chat plus a delicious cake or scone!!!! For more information, contact Julia at Cleobury North Shop.

CNVH remains open and available for hire. Enquiries and bookings – **please in future contact Sharon Jenkins** – Tel no: 07854-538645 or 01746-787220.

	<p><i>For reservations – please WhatsApp Emma on 07495-313711.</i></p> <p><i>A 5 per head deposit is payable on all bookings, to be deducted from your food bill on the evening</i></p>
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Neenton News

Bobbie Jarvis writes:

Church Services

✝ Sunday 17th August – 11:30 am – Holy Communion

See services throughout Brown Clee Benefice on page 7.

We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday.

All Saints' Tote – July 2025

1st prize – Malcolm Wain

2nd prize – Janet Elizabeth Preece

Thank you for your continuing support – Tote subscriptions are £12 for the year – there is still time to join and, who knows? - you may be a winner!

Friday 15th August – Fish Special Evening

Coming soon – The Pheasant at Neenton Cookery School

Mark will be demonstrating his cheffing techniques at Tenbury Agricultural Show on Saturday 2nd August and Burwarton Show on Thursday 7th August

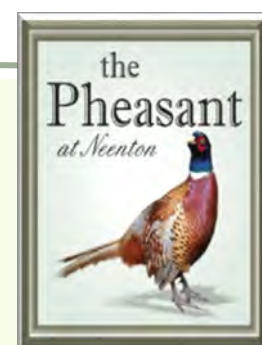
Sunday 24th August – 5:00 pm – Live Music from Shades of Grey

Monday 25th August – open for food – 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Usual opening times

- Wednesday / Thursday – 12 noon – 3 pm, 6 pm – 11 pm
- Friday / Saturday – 12 noon – 11 pm
- Sunday – lunch – 12 noon – 4:30 pm

Please call 01746-787955 or email info@pheasantatneenton.co.uk to discuss times and your requirements, or alternatively book direct on our website. <https://pheasantatneenton.co.uk>



Chetton News

Sheila Millington writes:

Church services in August

- ✝ Sunday 10th August – 11:30 am – Holy Communion
- ✝ Sunday 31st August – 11:00 am - Group Service and Lunch

From the Registers

A very happy congregation came along last month to celebrate the baptism of Angus Lewis. We had a full church, many of whom were under five, which was delightful to see. Several helped Revd Joe at the font!

A **Service of Remembrance** was held last month for the airmen who sadly lost their lives on the Brown Clee, mainly during WW11. Rev Joe conducted a fitting and poignant service for them watched on by parishioners from across the Benefice and beyond.

We also remembered the crew of the Wellington 111 that crashed at Eudon George in September 1943, killing all on board. The pilot, William Shepherd, was 21 years old on the same day. We were honoured that his nephew came to join us to remember them all.

We held another successful **Breakfast at the Down** last month, thank you to Steve and his team for their hospitality.

Our next social occasion will be lunch at Church House after our Group Service on Saturday 31st August. Please let Sheila or Lisa know if you would like to join us.

Flowers and Cleaning – Sheila, Anne and Elisabeth

Hundred club

- £15 – Elisabeth Buggins – no 97.
- £10 – Archie Pugh – no 62.

Chetton Village Hall

Flicks in the Sticks – Special Event – to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ days, we are showing 'The Battle of Britain' starring Michael Caine and Michael Redgrave, on Sunday 10th August at 1pm.

We are serving a Ploughman's lunch during the interval at approximately 2:00 pm, followed by the rest of the film.

There will be a licensed bar and a raffle and a percentage of the proceeds will be donated to SSAFA.

Pre booking is essential for this event - please telephone Sue on 01746 789239.

This is a ticket-only event at £15.00 inclusive. There will be a licensed bar and raffle and a percentage from the proceeds will be donated to SSAFA.

We will be showing '**Bridget Jones, Mad about the Boy**' on Friday 5th September at 7.30, doors open at 7pm for refreshments and tickets are £5.00.



We are hosting '**The Elderly Brothers**' on Saturday 4th October at 7pm. 45 minutes of soft rock (the Eagles etc) followed by supper and a further 45 minutes of music and dancing. Licensed bar and raffle. Tickets £15.00.

Chetton Village Hall	
Chetton Active Friends – exercise and recreational sessions	
Village Hall Diary for 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pam's Pilates on Mondays and Tuesdays 9:30am, and also on Tuesdays 11:00am. ■ Chetton Active Friends, Monday afternoons from 2pm. ■ Chetton and Glazeley WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. ■ Bridgnorth Dog Club - Thursday evening, 6:00pm. ■ Zumba with Lisa Beards – Tuesdays - 2:30 pm ■ Ballroom and Sequence Dancing, Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm.
Village Hall enquiries – for activities or hire, please contact Sue Bayliss on 01746-789239.	



Christmas embroidery stitch along!

Join me weekly to create your individually designed Christmas cushion. Starting Friday 19th September - Friday 12th December (excl. Friday 31st October ½ term)

10am - 12pm at Chetton Village Hall.
All materials provided (apart from cushion pad)
£10 per session (includes refreshments)

If interested email Jo on : cottagecraftsjos@gmail.com

Daddy's Hat ventured out of the Wheatland area on 19th July for a musical treat at the church of St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth. A new venue always attracts a different audience – this time including tourists to Bridgnorth who wandered in and then stayed to enjoy the music (including young April, dancing here!) - plus one lady whom a DH regular had just met on the bus!



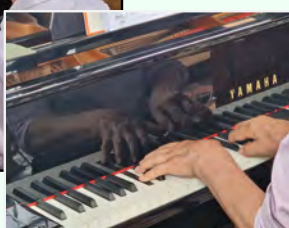
Sally had lined up three very contrasting musicians this time. Jonny, who first played Glazeley in May, and produces incredible classical and flamenco music from his acoustic guitar. 14-year-old James, a pupil at Haberdashers' Abraham Darby in Much Wenlock, playing seriously classic electric guitar numbers including Clapton and Hendrix, and Geoff, with soothing music on the St MM grand piano. It was a super afternoon. Oh, and there was tea and cake of course.

Thomas Telford, 230 years ago, couldn't have imagined the music that resounded in his majestic space – but the acoustics were marvellous. Much less so for the spoken word, strangely. Maybe TT knew more than we think....



On SUNDAY 17th August,

DH is 'going driveabout' with melodious music from Jonny Owens (top left). 4:30 at Cleobury North Church, music, tea and cake. Then onwards to Loughton, with more music, maybe under the yew tree, melting into Evening Prayer at 6:00pm.



Burwarton & District Gardening Club

Sunshine, a beautiful peaceful setting and good company – the highlight of the gardening club's year!

Bev Harris writes:

The final meeting of the gardening club's 2024-25 calendar was the garden picnic which this year was held at the home of Laura and Andrew Jones in Glazeley, Bridgnorth.

Laura and Andrew have been at the property for about three years. When they first arrived, the garden was very overgrown and neglected. It had previously been open to the public through the NGS garden scheme and it is clear to see that there were many interesting features which Laura is now bringing back to life.

As you enter the garden you are greeted by the gentle sound of water that is trickling into a pretty wildlife pond. It was a glorious day and Laura had laid the terrace out with plenty of shaded seating, much needed as the temperature was in the high 20s.

As we strolled through the garden, we discovered the bog garden, beautiful trees which included a Sequoia with its stunning red bark and a vegetable plot with resident hens. There were many outbuildings, including two very impressive sheds which Andrew had built himself.



There were also stables for Laura's two ponies which have a paddock at the far end of the garden. The ponies are called Betty and Lucy and are mother and daughter. They are rescue ponies who Laura claims have now become very expensive garden ornaments!

Where Laura had begun developing borders, they are well stocked with carefully chosen English cottage garden plants like *Centaurea macrocephala*, standing tall with its lovely yellow flowers.



Where borders are still untamed there is evidence of wonderful well-established perennials, like a lovely dark pink penstemon, just waiting to be tamed and cared for and Laura is certainly the gardener to do that.

Our garden tour was followed by cups of tea and a delicious, shared afternoon tea of sandwiches, scones, cheese, savouries and of course plenty of homemade cake. It was a delightful afternoon in glorious sunshine, in a beautiful peaceful setting with a chance to relax and chat with fellow gardeners. In many ways this is the highlight of our gardening club's year.

The programme for 2025-26 is now being finalised and we have a number of exciting and varied speakers booked. Watch this space and next month I will provide details of what is to come.

If you would like to know more about the gardening club, then please get in touch by emailing us on burwartonanddistrictgardening@gmail.com or call me on 07933724728. Bev Harris, Secretary



The Severn Valley Group of Parishes

Rector: Revd Kina Robertshaw - Revkinarobertshaw@gmail.com

~

Revd David Poyner, Associate Minister - email D.R.Poyner@aston.ac.uk,

Tel 0980-100-9693 (mobile) or 0121 204 3997 (work);

St Mary, Highley

CHURCHWARDEN

Canev Clayton

St Mary, Billingsley

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Peter, Chelmarsh

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

St Bartholomew, Glazeley

CHURCHWARDEN

Vacant

Glazeley News

The Revd David Poyner and Marion Corfield write:

The celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the rebuilding of Glazeley church are continuing. Last month, we had splendid entertainment from the Clee Liberty Band, performing for a Daddy's Hat Concert. The most telling part of the event for me was that the concert itself formally finished at 4pm, when we had refreshments. At 5pm most people were still around and there was more, totally unplanned, music, performed simply for joy by our artists. Church is, amongst other things, about building a community and that is what was happening. Much the same can be said about the local history exhibition put on by Lyn Parnaby. This was intended just for the same weekend as Daddy's Hat; it is still in church, still being visited and people are still telling me how much they enjoy it.

Our regular communion services continue on the third Sunday of the month at 10am. We are fortunate that Rachael Davenhill is able to get to most of these to play the organ; that greatly enriches our worship. The service is followed by refreshments; we have much sherry and other fine beverages left over from our celebration last month. We may even manage some superior communion wine....



Billingsley News

The Revd David Poyner writes:

We are preparing for a visit from the Caring for God's Acre Team as I write, to scythe the grass in the churchyard. This encourages wild flowers, insects and birds so our churchyard is a place for the living as well as a resting place for the dead. The dry, hot weather this year has held back the grass; good news for us, not so good for farmers trying to make hay. *Pictures – Left – Ellen (from Billingsley) and Alex (from CfGA) discussing betony - pictured Right.*



At our last Sunday evening service, Ellen McConnell and Donna Adams spoke about visits to Peru. In the case of Ellen it was a trip made by Bob, her late husband, in the 1950s, for Donna it was a much more recent trip. Both also showed us various objects from these trips; an Alpaca skin rug and the brightly coloured shawls. Donna noted on her visit how the traditional dress is being replaced by western fashions, perhaps a rather sad comment. I did the "God slot", about Paddington Bear, a visitor from Peru who shows some very Christ-like features in the books and films.

As at Glazeley, the socialising after the formal event is all part of the occasion; we finished the service at 6.45 and an hour later we were still talking. Next month, we welcome back Sue and Phil Bates; Sue will be talking about a recent trip she and Phil have made to Easter Island. Come and find out more at 6pm on Sunday 10th August.

We also have communion at 8am on the fourth Sunday of the month.

A day spent tidying up a churchyard

Anni Calver writes:

I had a lovely time recently in a churchyard, with the Churchyard Task Team. We go out most weeks and 'tidy up' where we are working. We all love it in the summer as it is time for the annual cut of the grasses and flowers.

It was bit of a surprise to find the village school pupils waiting to see us and to find out what we were doing in "their" churchyard. Their school overlooks the 12th-century building, which is surrounded by a quite large burial ground. First, they wanted to know why we use old-fashioned tools like scythes instead of a mower. We soon convinced them that manoeuvring a modern mower even without wires was difficult because of the tombstones.

So what else do we do? We explained that scything did not cut the grass as close to the ground as mowers did and this was better for the wild life in the space. We also did not use fertiliser or pesticides and we could control the space

just as easily by nurturing the ground. We try to create the best places for small mammals

such as mice, shrews and the threatened dormouse. With fallen branches we make habitat piles, which offer warmth and protection to small animals from big ones.



We do cutting down too. We might trim some ivy, not because they kill the trees they are leaning on, but because ivy is an amazing plant. It offers shelter to birds and insects in the winter when trees are bare. In Spring, the leaf growth provides hidden spaces to build a nest so big bad birds do not see chicks as their next meal. They eat the berries too.

And what about the headstones? They can tell us so much about the people who lived here hundreds of years ago. We cannot read one much before 1700 as the weather has usually worn the stonemasons work away. If your family has lived in the village for a long time, you may be able to find name just like yours. Discovering your ancestry is very popular today, encouraged by television programmes.

The children had to go back to school as it was playtime for them and work time for us ageing scythers. We had learned a lot from each other. We had touched on history in the building, learned a lot about the environment, compared old and new with surprising outcomes. We had also agreed that brambles are good for blackberries and in patches are good places for our wild life to hide but it does hurt if you got scratched.

So we started our work after our tea break and managed to get everything done that we planned to do. The main lesson learned though is that maybe we do not use these village havens for education as much as we could. So if you're involved in teaching maybe this article will encourage you to look again at what is just down the road.

Anni Holden Calver, Secretary of Shropshire Churches Tourism Group (SCTG)
www.discovershropshirechurches.co.uk
Trustee of Caring for God's Acre and Churchyard Task Team cheerleader!
www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Pictures – Alex from CfGA, at Billingsley
2024 – sharpening the scythe (CCJ)
2025 – scything the much drier grass (DRP)

Chelmarsh News

Glenys Williams writes:

Congratulations!

On 29th June, Michelle, one of our Local Ministry Team, preached her first formal sermon at the Benefice service at Highley. She brought her specially sincere approach to the theme of thanksgiving for God's love, care and protection of all people. It was very encouraging and comforting and we thank God for inspiring Shell to step up to the challenge. Congratulations Shell on a great achievement.

The Chelmarsh annual Parochial Committee Meeting (APCM) was held on Sunday 1st June after the service. It was attended by the PCC and the congregation present on the day. This was pleasing, as the PCC has tried various ways in the past to encourage the public to come to the meeting without much success. Unfortunately, there were no nominations or volunteers for Churchwardens, so Chelmarsh will again have to manage without these important posts.

The Plant Sale took place on Saturday 28th June. It was hoped that the weather would be favourable as there will be refreshments as well as the plants and stalls of cakes etc and Bric a Brac. The money raised will go towards the work on the tower.

Ride & Stride is the biggest upcoming event in which St Peters Church is involved. The Historic Churches' Trust annual Churches Open Day raises the money to provide grants to small rural churches struggling to meet extensive repairs (eg roof or pipework). **This year we received £960** towards the louvres in our tower, so joining in would be a contribution in appreciation of this grant.



Saturday 13th September 2025

**If you would like to include yourself,
Sponsor forms are available in church**

Results of the 100 Club draw:

- **£100** Barbara Theobald
- **£50** Linda Jones
- **£25** Alastair Rogers
- **£25** Anita Manley

Afternoon Tea

The PCC are thinking of holding an Afternoon Tea in the churchyard on one of the Sundays in August.

Please keep an eye on Facebook and look out for posters with details.

Church Cleaning - Wednesday 20th August 2.30pm (approx.). Thank you, Janet, for helping last month. A bit of help is worth a lot of pity!

Hereford Motion at the General Synod

As described in the Bishop's weekly video, for information we have included here a copy of the Hereford Motion lifted from the Synod Papers. Full background, details and explanation appear in the Synod papers online at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-july-2025>

The Motion

Bishop Michael of Bath & Wells to move on behalf of Bishop Richard of Hereford and the Hereford Diocesan Synod;

'That this Synod:

- call upon the Church Commissioners and Archbishops Council to undertake everything necessary to effect a redistribution of financial resources directly to Diocesan Stipend Funds to reflect the value of contributions made by Diocesan Boards of Finance to the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme since it was established by the settlement of 1997 (£2.6 billion); and
- call upon Diocesan Boards of Finance to manage the funds redistributed as a result of the above to support parish ministry in the ways discerned locally to be most effective in enabling growth and sustaining the Church of England's commitment to be a Christian presence in every community.'

Molecule of the Month: Amphiregulin – and heart attacks in the morning

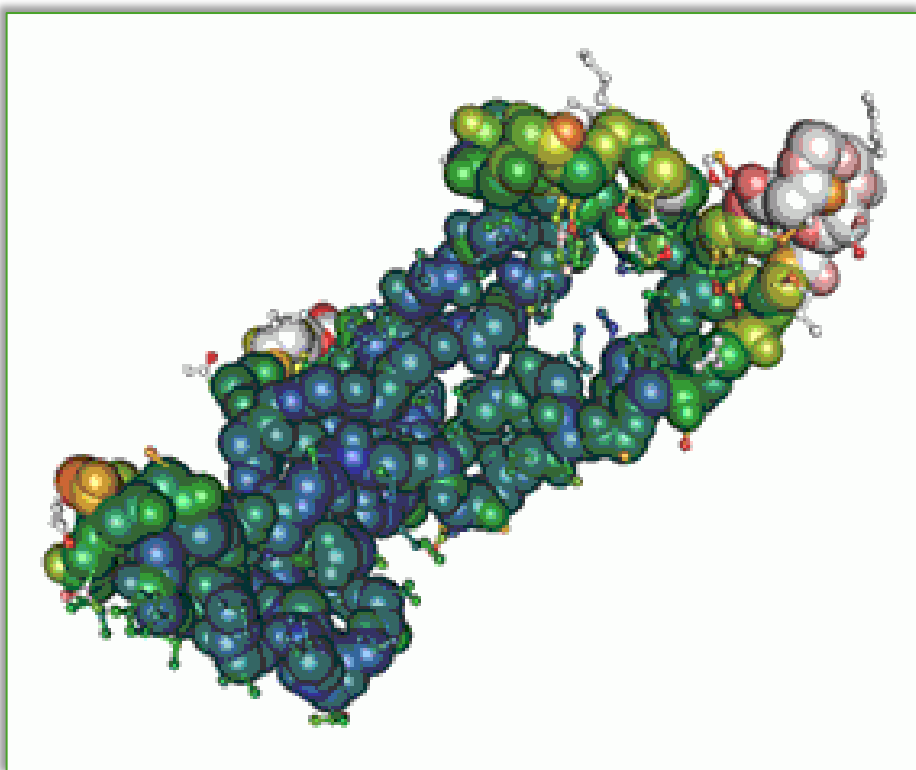
Revd David Poyner writes:



It has been known for many years that most heart attacks occur in the morning. We work on daily rhythms, perhaps the most obvious being that we usually sleep at night and are awake in the day. These are known as diurnal rhythms and are driven by a intrinsic clock that is at work in our body.

The clock drives levels of a number of key proteins, so that their levels fluctuate over 24 hours, with a peak and a trough. These are known as clock proteins. Typically, they in turn switch on or off the production of other proteins, that, for example, might cause us to be sleepy or alert. In the case of the heart, a number of factors such as blood pressure come together in a morning to make it a dangerous time. However, research has now shown that there is also a defence system that follows the same pattern, so that if someone has a heart attack in the morning, the body is prepared for it.

In the case of the heart, the key clock protein is known as BMAL1. This can pair with a number of other proteins; the choice of its partner defines what it will do. In the heart, the key partner is the protein HIF-2. This is normally produced when blood oxygen is low; it causes cells to make other proteins that protect them against the low level of oxygen. **In a heart attack, the blood vessels that supply the heart are blocked. As blood carries oxygen, the heart cells cannot get enough of this and become damaged or die.** Paradoxically, the most dangerous period is when some degree of blood supply is restored; heart cells react badly to this and often die.



HIF2, when it pairs with BMAL1, can protect against this type of damage, known as reperfusion injury. BMAL1 levels are low at night, but rise during the day, fortunately coinciding with the period when people are most at risk of a heart attack. The HIF2-BMAL1 pair works by causing heart cells to make another protein called **amphiregulin**. This activates what is known as the “**cell survival pathway**”, which does exactly what the name suggests. It also improves connectivity between heart cells. This reduces the damage the heart experiences.

Tracing the path of this natural protection mechanism against heart attacks is scientifically satisfying. However, it also has some potential practical applications. There are already drugs that can activate BMAL1 and make HIF2 more stable inside cells. In experimental models of heart attacks, giving these drugs is beneficial. **Our new knowledge opens the way for these, or derivatives of them, to be given to patients by medical staff as soon as possible after a patient has a heart attack.**

DRP

The Stottesdon Group of Parishes

Rector: <i>post vacant</i> so for the coming months please contact the churchwardens or volunteers as below		
St Mary, Stottesdon <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Clare Tibbits: 01746-718007</i>	St Giles, Farlow <i>CHURCHWARDENS - VACANT – please contact the key holder, Pam Phillips – 01746-718745</i>	Holy Trinity, Sidbury <i>CHURCHWARDEN – vacant – please contact the key holder, Andrew Sierakowski - 07934-714149</i>
St Mary, Cleeton St Mary <i>CHURCHWARDEN</i> <i>Sue Dolphin: - 01584 890583</i>	St John, Middleton Scriven <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Ann Constable</i>	St Michael, Silvington <i>CHURCHWARDEN - vacant – so contact Parish Rep Katie Hickman</i>
In an emergency, please call Revd Jeannetta Stokes, on 01746-716698		

August message

Keeping the Show on the Road during the vacancy – part 21

As July drew to its thundery close, we reflected that in recent days ‘doing what church does well’ had been an enormous challenge ‘in vacancy’ as our communities were deeply shocked - in an unimaginable variety of ways - by the impact of the tragic fire at The Fighting Cocks.

Six days later, on the Sunday, St Mary’s hosted an informal worship service for Community Reflection. Over 40 people turned out in the rain simply to ‘be together’, to remember better times and to share hopes for the future. Thanks to Joe, Jeannetta and Fiona for reaching out and to Fr Justin for his sensitive support in achieving the mission: “God bless Annie”.

Also, as this edition goes to press, there is welcome news about the recruitment of our new Rector. The re-advertisements of the post will be in The Church Times from late August, with the interviews planned for October. More next month.

Meanwhile, as we continue to strive for a flourishing Christian presence in the parishes, our two schools and in the wider communities we serve, please:

- cherish and support the volunteers who work so hard to sustain the church here – the Churchwardens, the parish reps and members of the PCC’s;
- remember to thank the volunteer, visiting clergy who are routinely and willingly facilitating our Sunday worship

Clare and Chris Tibbits

Pastoral Visits and support

If you or someone you know need a visit or communion or other support at home or elsewhere during the interregnum, please contact your churchwarden or other volunteer (see above) who will endeavour to help you to arrange this.

Benefice website (A Church near you: Stottesdon) We are trying to keep this updated during the vacancy, so if you need something added – or spot an error - please get in touch by email with chris@stottystores.co.uk

Wheatland News –the deadline for the August 2025 edition (Stottesdon Benefice Parishes) is to get copy to Chris by first thing on Tuesday 26th August 2025 – Thanks!

Services for August in the Stottesdon Churches

August	Celebrant	Stottesdon	Other parishes
Sunday 3 rd	John Daniels	10:30 - Morning Prayer - Book of Common Prayer	Farlow: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	John Daniels	10:30 – Holy Communion	Cleeton St Mary: 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	David Poyner	Group Holy Communion at Sidbury: 11:45	
Sunday 24 th	John Daniels	10:30 – Holy Communion	Silvington 09:00 Holy Communion
Sunday 31 st	Justin Bailey	Group Holy Communion at Middleton Scriven: 10:30	
Sunday 7 th September	John Daniels	10:30 – Morning Prayer – Book of Common Prayer	Farlow: 09:00 Holy Communion

During the continuing interregnum there will be some changes to the service pattern. These times are correct at the time of going to print, but it's always worth checking on our website (A Church Near You: Stottesdon benefice) or with your churchwarden.

From the Parish Registers:

✝ Stottesdon: Funeral Office celebrated for Ray Ingram R.I.P.

Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group

Please see report of the July meeting on page 10, plus other news.

Stottesdon News

Clare Tibbits writes:

Stottesdon St Mary 100 Club

Congratulations to our July winners – Janet Williams, Jane Fletcher and Roger Cook.

Community Fete

With many thanks to all who volunteered and otherwise supported the Community Fete on 4th July, we can report that a total of **£2,826** was raised – split 50/50 as usual between St Mary's and the Primary School – a great result all round!! Thank you all.



Remember The Magnificent Seven?

By way of an update, the 375 lengths of the Highley Lido completed by Stotty WI's 7 swimmers continued to attract sponsorship during July, taking their total to a fantastic **£2,038** raised for the Severn Hospice. Wow!

Completion of the St Mary's Bell Restoration Project

The Bell ringers at St Mary's celebrated the completion of their Restoration Project on 14th July with the dedication, by Rev Val Smith at the Sunday service, of a special plaque which marks the restoration of the Treble Bell, achieved through generous local benefactors, and the memory of Lizz Backhouse ... a ringer at the Tower for many years.

The project - led by Tower Captain Derek Overton - involved bringing all four bells back into use after 55 years lying unused between 1949 and 2004. Unlike the others, the Treble bell was in reasonable condition and work on this was deferred until further funding could be secured; full circle ringing with all four bells officially recommenced in 2004/5.

The unrestored Treble continued to be rung weekly until it had to be taken out of use again, due to deteriorating condition, in 2022.

St. Mary's Church, Stottesdon
The Treble Bell of this Tower was restored in 2024
by J. Taylor of Loughborough
with many village donations & in memory of
Elizabeth Backhouse
a ringer at this Tower for many years.



A successful appeal was launched for the funds needed to meet the costs of restoring the bell and its wooden frame.

Specialist foundry John Taylor & Co of Loughborough undertook the heavy engineering, with the active, practical support of Derek and his team for the often filthy work in the Tower and on the frame.

The photograph shows the Treble [having been lowered from the Tower en route to Taylors] – with (l to r) Derek Overton, Mike Musgrove, Clive Jackson and Roger Cook all rightly looking pretty pleased at achieving that operation!

There are five short films which, in 'Time Team' style, introduce the bells and the restoration project

plus the noble art of bellringing – take a look online at:

www.stottyheritage.co.uk/church-heritage/bells

Sidbury News

Revd David Poyner writes:

It has been a quiet month at Sidbury in the church, as we had no service in June due to the visit of the Bishop to Glazeley. However, we resume our regular services on the third Sunday of the month: our next big event will be Harvest in September.

Outside of church, things have been much livelier, with a metal detecting event organised to help raise funds. This was highly successful. Despite being a small church in a small parish, Sidbury finds ways to place itself at the centre of the community.

**Catch up locally
with Mandy or
Andrew for the
latest news**

Silvington News

The next church service at St Michael's will be Communion, 9:00 am Sunday 24th August.

Catch up locally with Katie or Bill for the latest news

Cleeton St Mary News

Sue Dolphin writes:

Knit and Natter continues every Wednesday at 10:00 am in church.

June 100 Club results

- £20 Jeff Massey No 98
- £10 Sharon Oretel No 102, £10 David Percival No 36,
- £5 Deena Shorthouse, No 48, £5 Kay Downes No 6

Middleton Scriven News

Ann Constable writes:

Next church service:

- ✝ Sunday 31st August at 10.30 - and remember we are most welcome at services in the other five churches around the Benefice too!

Community Coffee Mornings

Saturday 9th August and Saturday 13th September – 10:00 am to 12 noon. Do come and enjoy tea / coffee with cake, and catching up with friends and neighbours.

Severn Hospice Coffee Morning – and Seasonal Card sale – lots of notice for this popular Autumnal fixture: save the date! It's on Wednesday 8th October at Damson House (Ann and John Williamson's).

Farlow News

Caroline Billson writes:

Farlow 100 Club Winners for July:

- £20 – Terry Price
- £10 each to – Molly Jones, Robert Jones
- £5 each to – Edward Howells, Marcelle & Simon

This is the last draw this time, so thank you to everyone who entered. We will start them again in October if you would like to join again.

The PCC would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for their kind donation of £50 from the 100 Years Celebration.

Please would you help? Our church notice board at St Giles, Farlow needs maintenance and repair. If anyone would be willing to help it would be much appreciated. Please could you contact Pam on 01746 718745 if you are able to help. Thank you.

Community Notice Board

Summer Farmers' Market

On Saturday 16th August, is "under and around the crooked spire" at St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on the THIRD SATURDAY each month from 09.30-12.30.

Our local food banks need YOUR help

Both are **always** in need of donations of foodstuffs and other goods, and of money to sustain their services, and never more so than in this season of plenty. You may have seen in the news that donations of foodstuffs are way down and that the Food Banks are having to buy in produce to make up their family supply packages!

Find them on Facebook or call 07960 285520 for BRIDGNORTH or 07519 885943 for CLEOBURY MORTIMER



Under Your Feet!

By August, areas of long, flowery grassland should have been cut (unless you have late flowering species such as scabious or betony present, in which case these areas can be left a little longer). With the cutting and raking of long grass there is often an opportunity to spy onto the world of small rodents such as mice, shrews and voles who may have made routes through the sward that are revealed by the cut.

Small rodents are short lived and highly reproductive, wood mice for example tend to live for about a year, during which time they may have up to six litters of between four and eight young. In a churchyard you may have several species of mice, shrews and voles, the most likely being wood mice, field vole and common shrew. Wood mice have large ears and eyes, useful for their largely nocturnal life whilst field voles have blunter noses and smaller ears and eyes, they can be active during the day and night. Shrews are distinctive with a long, pointed nose and tiny eyes. All of these animals need to feed frequently and are always on the move seeking food, with shrews eating 80 to 90% of their body weight each day. They feed on insects and other invertebrates but will also tackle quite large earthworms, far bigger than they are! Mice and voles seek out seeds, berries and fruits, some of which they may stash for later. Whilst mice can be agile climbers, voles tend to stick to the ground, following the trails they make through grassland that you can see after a cut.

Unfortunately for voles and mice, they are important prey items for a range of other species. Tawny owls, also often found in churchyards, hunt silently for small rodents as do kestrels, weasels, foxes and of course cats. If you are interested to find out more, look for owl pellets beneath a nest or roosting place, these are regurgitated bundles of the inedible parts of their food and often contain bones which can be teased out of the pellet and then identified, giving information on what they have been eating. Shrews by contrast are not such a staple food item, you may find a bitten and dead shrew lying on a path suggesting that it has been hunted but was not very tasty.

Churchyards and other burial grounds are havens for rodents, containing a mosaic of grassland, shrubs, woodland and lots of places to make burrows or use existing cracks, nooks and crannies. Free of herbicides and pesticides they are full of food, both invertebrates and plant material whilst areas of long meadow and tussocky coarse grass provide perfect cover. See if you can spot their burrows and runways and imagine their busy lives in the fast lane!

All the best,

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk – individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

Useful local contacts – updated August 2025

Brown Clee Surgery PPG	Brown Clee Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - email BrownCleePPG@gmail.com , or call Chair Tina Ranson on 01584-878707.
Brown Clee Walkers	Meeting Place for walks - Ditton Priors Church. 01746-712662
Burwarton & District Garden Club	Meets on the 2 nd Thursday of each month from October to June at 2:15pm at Stoke St Milborough VH. Contact secretary Ms Bev Harris on 01584-841845, bev_harris15@yahoo.co.uk
Burwarton & District WI	Contact the Secretary, Helen Groves, on 01746-712466
Burwarton & District Wives Group	Meeting 8pm first Wednesday of the month. Contact Debbie Jones 01746-712421 or Gill Severn 01746-712231
Chelmarsh Bowling	Outdoor bowling in summer (Tuesday evening & Wednesday afternoon), indoor during the winter (Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 9:00pm) at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Further details from Stan Chapman, 01746-862424
Chelmarsh Games Group	Mainly Canasta and Scrabble! Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Sue Jakeman on 07531-008876.
Chelmarsh Jubilee Club	Meet at Chelmarsh Sports & Social Club – contact Shell Russon on 07903-162408 for more information
Chelmarsh Parent & Toddler Group	Every Tuesday during term time 9.30 – 11.30 Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Contact Pam Baker 07846-692323
Chelmarsh Parish Hall	Available for hire - booking@chelmarshparishhall.co.uk
Chelmarsh Walking Group	Contact Jen Everitt on 01746-862858 for more information.
Chetton & Glazeley WI	Meets in Chetton Village Hall on the 2 nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm. For enquiries re trying a session or two and membership please contact Elisabeth Buggins, Secretary - Phone: 07855 018288 Email: elisabeth@buggins.com
Chetton Folk Dance Club	Meets Chetton Village Hall, last Wednesday of month except August Tel. Janice Burton 01584-823802
Chetton Village Hall	Enquiries - Sue on 01746-789239
Chorley Village Hall	Available for Hire (fully equipped kitchen, digital projection equipment and large screen) contact 07726-763883 – NEW DEDICATED NUMBER DECEMBER 2022
Cleobury North Village Hall	Enquiries to 01746-787093 please
	National Centre for Domestic Violence https://www.ncdv.org.uk/contact/ Call 08448-044999. Website gives advice and other means of getting help.
Daddy's Hat Music & Poetry	Contact on 01746-787419 – leave a message and you will get a call-back!
Ditton Priors Art Group	Village Hall Wednesday morning (except Christmas) 9.30 – 12.30pm all welcome Various visual art forms eg Water Colour, Oils & Acrylics. Contact Gloria Blair on 07794-225532
Ditton Priors History Group	Please contact paul.wilson8992@gmail.com
Ditton Priors Village Hall	Bookings - 07766 392 105 - dittonpriorshalls@gmail.com
Knowle Sports Club	Second hand sales held every first Saturday of the month, 7.30am – 11am proceeds to Children's Football Field 01584-890644
 Little Explorers Pre-School Ditton Priors	Open Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm. Contact 01746-712506 littleexplorers.ditton@gmail.com
	Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride Transport Services https://www.shrewsbury-dialaride.co.uk – 01743-450270 Mon-Fri 09:30 – 15:00, Corvedale Buzzard – 01584-700907
Short Mat Bowling – Ditton Priors	Ditton Priors Village Hall Every Tuesday afternoon 2.00 - 4.00pm Wednesday 7.30-10.00pm. Everyone is welcome - try at no charge. Contact Clive Jackson on 01746-718046
Stottesdon & District W.I.	Meets in various venues on the third Wednesday in each month details from Helena Hale 01746-718012 or Clare Tibbits 01746-718007
Stottesdon Gateway Nursery	Pre-school, holiday club and wraparound sessions. An integral part of Stottesdon Primary School, Contact 01746-718769
Tae kwon-do	Eardington Village Hall Thursday, 5:15pm. Contact Neil Morris 07969-996055

Wheatland Diary

Everything we know so far for 2025! Do make sure we put your dates in, maximise numbers at all the events, and help avoid clashes!

Where no page number is given, it means that there is no further information in this edition about the event.

Sat	2	Aug	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Thur	7	Aug	Burwarton Show! – DP Refreshment Tent – see page 11
Sat	9	Aug	Middleton Scriven Church – Coffee morning – 10:00 – 12noon – see page 25
Sun	10	Aug	Flicks in the Sticks – VE / VJ day anniversary special – The Battle of Britain, 1pm, Chetton VH - page 15
Sun	10	Aug	Billingsley Church – Journey to Easter Island – 6:00 pm – see page 18
Tues	12	Aug	Cleobury North VH AGM – in the VH, 7:30 pm – see page 14
Thur	14	Aug	Aston Botterell - Southport Flower Show – see page 13
Sat	16	Aug	Ben Upton's 200-mile cycle ride in aid of Aston Botterell Church – help needed! - see page 15
Sat	16	Aug	Summer Farmers' Market – Cleobury Mortimer – 09:30 – 12:30 – see page 25
Sun	17	Aug	Daddy's Hat – 4:30pm at Cleobury North, 5:30pm for music before service at Loughton – pages 14 & 16
Thur	21	Aug	Teas in St John's Churchyard, Ditton Priors – sunshine promised – 3:00pm – see page 11
Sun	24	Aug	Live Music – Shades of Grey – Pheasant at Neenton – 5:00 pm – see page 14
Fri	29	Aug	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Sun	31	Aug	Summer Lunch – Church House, Chetton – see page 15
Fri	5	Sept	Flicks in the Sticks – Bridget Jones, Mad About the Boy, Chetton VH 7:00pm – see page 15
Sat	6	Sept	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Wed	10	Sept	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Laura's Dairy Talk & Tasters
Sat	13	Sept	Ride and Stride! - see pages 11 and 20
Sat	13	Sept	Middleton Scriven Church – Coffee morning – 10:00 – 12noon – see page 25
Fri	19	Sept	Chetton VH Xmas Embroidery Stitch-along first meeting – see page 16
Fri	26	Sept	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Sat	4	Oct	Coffee morning, St John's Church, Ditton Priors, 10:30 – 12:00. All welcome - see page 11
Sat	4	Oct	The Elderly Brothers – Soft Rock and Supper, Chetton VH – see page 15
Sun	5	Oct	Harvest Festival and Sale – especially for Children – Aston Botterell – see page 15
Tue	7	Oct	Brown Clee Surgery PPG, Ditton Priors VH, 6:00pm – see page 10
Wed	8	Oct	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Annual Meeting
Wed	8	Oct	Coffee Morning for Severn Hospice – Damson House, Middleton Scriven – see page 25
Sat	11	Oct	Harvest Supper – Ditton Priors – see page 12
Tue	21	Oct	Local Air Crashes – DP Local History Group, Ditton Priors Village Hall, 7:00pm – see page 12
Sat	25	Oct	Quiz Night – Aston Botterell – details to come – see page 13
Fri	31	Oct	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Wed	12	Nov	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Fused Glass Making
Thur	27	Nov	Christmas Lights and Carols – Ditton Priors
Fri	28	Nov	Julia's Coffee Morning – Cleobury North VH – 10:30 – noon – see page 14
Sat	29	Nov	Christmas Fair – Ditton Priors Pavilion – 11:00am
Wed	10	Dec	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Christmas Festivities
Sat	13	Dec	Punch, Pies and Carols – Ditton Priors Village Hall –
Wed	14	Jan	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall -Games Night
Wed	11	Feb	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall - Decoupage
Wed	11	Mar	Chetton & Glazeley WI – 7:00 for 7.30 pm Chetton Village Hall – Midlands Air Ambulance

More Green Ideas – continued from Back Cover

Children love water, but so do garden creatures in this hot weather. Ponds don't have to be expensive with liners etc, any household item that will hold water will make a small pond. Be creative in making it a habitat, with rocks, stones, sticks and plants, but if it has steep sides, do provide a ramp as an escape route. Put it in a shady place and top it up regularly. If you do make one, creatures will find it surprisingly quickly.

Growing plants from seeds is interesting, try runner bean seeds in a jam jar, cress on a damp cloth....even put it in an egg shell decorated with a face. Cut the tops off root vegetables and watch them re sprout in a dish of water. These quick result growing projects can then be transferred to veg growing in the garden.

Enter vegetable or flowers the children's section of Cleve St Margaret Summer Fair on 16th August 2pm. See advert.

Collecting and pressing wild flowers was popular in the 1960's, still ok to do if you make sure its not a rare species! Having a competition to see who can collect the most different species of grass is challenging when your out for a walk too

Rummage in the recycle bin and make a sculpture out of disposable cartons and boxes.

Empty milk cartons can be shaped into great **bird feeders** and water sources, then hung from a tree.

Decorating trees by winding fabric around tree trunks and branches is an ancient art form from eastern countries, but wool plaited or crocheted length looks interesting dangling from branches in the breeze.

If you are lucky enough to have a **butterfly net**, purchase a butterfly chart from FSC, they are sturdier for children to use outside when identifying species. The bee chart is really good

and you will be amazed at the variety bees in the UK.

Take part in The Big Butterfly Count organised by the Butterfly Conservation Charity to help scientists monitor their population, taking place now.

Making charts of what you see, or writing a journal is an important record of what's around your local area. You can even **upload your species list to iRecord**, an UK recording website.

Mammal tunnels are fascinating to see what creature has tip toed through overnight. A length of square drain pipe, length of paper inside with charcoal and veg oil making an inky pad to be walked over at the entrance, the little feet leave great tracks to identify.

Check if your local wildlife group has a **moth trap** you could borrow. A parent might even be able to make a simple one. Moth are a fascinating species, there is such a variety of them flying at night.

Make use of binoculars, a magnifying glass and a camera to record what you see.

Scrappies Store in Church Stretton, is a wonderful place to grab **bargain craft equipment**, it has a section where you can fill a basket for about £5. Items like card, jars, remnants of wool and fabric, pens and surplus items from retailers. are in there. Worth a visit.

Check out **visits and events** organised by Shropshire Wildlife Trust.
shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/events.

There's a **family walk** in the Stiperstones in 12th August 2025. Check out Shropshire's Great Outdoors, online

All of these ideas can be Googled for more details, but most of all we hope your summer are full with sunny days being busy in nature.

Thank you Sue – what a brilliant feature for WN in the Summer Holidays. Ed

Green Ideas to Entertain the Children this month

Tried and tested by Sue Crichton – continued on page 27

The long-awaited summer holidays are here. Children are eager for the time at home to play and relax. But it can be anything but relaxing for parents and grandparents. After the first couple of weeks, entertaining children can be both exhausting and expensive.

So here are a few ideas to pass sunny days away and help children to connect with nature

We know it's important for children to play outside, it develops them physically and by running, climbing, exploring it helps them stay active. It improves balance and coordination and the time in sunlight helps the body produce that important vitamin D.

Green spaces have a calming effect on children, especially woodlands, it improves their mood and lowers stress. Research has shown that time in nature improves concentration and stimulates their imagination.

Children who spend more time amongst animals, plants and eco systems, we find helps their connection with other living things and will hopefully inspire them to care for their natural environment when they get older.

Painting outside is fun, when my grandchildren were little they loved painting each others' bodies! Cheap rolls of lining wallpaper can be rolled out in the garden and footprints, leaf prints, rolling painted pebbles, stamping with sticks etc, produces lovely textures. Outside painting can be big. Use chalks on paving slabs and fence panels, it can easily be hosed off.

Make a kite, lots of design ideas on the web. Flags are fun to make too, a centre piece in the garden or small ones on lollipop sticks for a trail. Rip up some old cotton sheets or pillow cases to make them.

Collecting small twigs that resemble a person, then wind wool around them to **make different characters** you could have a go at Stickman or even a scarecrow.

Carving sticks is fab, experiment with different branches to find a species that carves well. some are much easier to carve than others. Again you can wind wool, fabric and beads to decorate your hand made walking stick. You could make a holly wooden spoon for cooking.

Bee hotels create great habitats: look at the one in Sainsbury's car park in Ludlow and see just how many bees have used it for a base. There are lots of designs again on the internet, but a tin can used as the base, works very well

